

Absentee Voting



Cassandra Johnson-Circuit Clerk
Absentee Election Manager
801 Forrest Ave Suite 202
Gadsden, AL 35901
(256) 549-5355

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**NOVEMBER 3, 2020
GENERAL ELECTION**

(GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS)

Dear Absentee Voter:

On behalf of our Absentee Election Office, we want to thank you for taking the time to make your vote count in this upcoming election. Pursuant to Title 17-11-3, Code of Alabama, **Application** for an absentee ballot must be received in the office of the Absentee Election Manager/Circuit Clerk not less than five (5) days prior to the Election. **The deadline to apply is Thursday, October 29, 2020 by 5:00 p.m.** You are permitted to apply and vote absentee in person at the Absentee Election Office **OR** you may vote by mail. All applications must include a reason for absentee voting and the address where the voter is currently registered to vote.

IMPORTANT: Pursuant to Emergency Rule 820-2-3-.06-.04ER issued on July 17, 2020 by the Alabama Secretary of State, and due to the State of Emergency issued by the Governor of Alabama on March 13, 2020, as amended, any qualifier voter who determines it is impossible or unreasonable to vote at their voting place for the General Election on November 3, 2020 due to the declared state of emergency, shall be eligible to check the box on the absentee ballot application which reads as follows.

"I have a physical illness or infirmity which prevents my attendance at the polls". (ID REQUIRED)

Pursuant to Alabama law, only one application per envelope is acceptable, even if multiple voters live at the same address. Your application must provide the **Alabama residence address where the voter is registered to vote**, even if the absentee ballot is to be mailed to a different address. Applications must be signed by the actual voter and (*witnessed only if the voter signs by a "mark"*). Upon completing and signing your application, **you must attach a copy of a valid photo ID or Voter ID** (*visit AlabamaVoterID.com for a complete list*) **to the application** (*unless you are ID exempt*). The voter also has the option to hand deliver his/her application to the Absentee Election Manager/Circuit Clerk or forward it by U.S. Mail to the Absentee Election Office. (*see note below*)

Note: Under Act 2019-507, an absentee ballot application must be accompanied by a copy of current, valid photo identification, unless the voter is exempt from the identification requirement. Failing to provide the identification will result in your ballot becoming a provisional ballot.

If you have experienced a recent name or address change and have not updated your voter information with the Board of Registrars office, please update your voter information before mailing your application for an Absentee ballot. If you do not know your voting precinct, you may contact the Board of Registrars office at (256) 549-5384 for assistance. **The last day to register or update your voter registration is October 19, 2020 with the Board of Registrars** located in the Etowah County Courthouse or by visiting the Secretary of State website: www.alabamavotes.gov.

Medical and Business Emergency applications are available, if you qualify on Friday, October 30th, 2020 and Monday, November 2nd, 2020. **Business Emergency ballots must be voted in person at the Absentee Election Office.** *An affidavit is required to be signed by the voter stating that you were not aware of the business emergency until after the October 29th, 2020 application deadline.* Medical Emergency ballots are for a registered voter that requires emergency treatment of a licensed physician within 5 days prior to the election (*upon application, the physician shall sign a special form describing and certifying the circumstances that constitute an emergency*). The Absentee ballot must be returned to the Absentee Election Manager no later than noon on Election Day by the voters Designee.

When you receive your Absentee ballot by mail, it is very important that you follow the instructions carefully and return your Absentee ballot to the Absentee Election Manager as soon as possible. No one is permitted to receive or return an Absentee Ballot for any other voter. (*The only exception is a Medical Emergency ballot*).

The deadline to hand deliver your ballot to the Absentee Election Manager is no later than Monday, November 2nd, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Ballots that are mailed by U.S. mail or commercial carrier must be **postmarked no later than one day prior to the election and received by the Absentee Election Manager no later than NOON on (Election Day)**. If you have any questions concerning absentee voting, you may contact Cassandra Johnson, Circuit Clerk/Absentee Election Manager at (256) 549-5355.

All applications for an Absentee Ballot and the Absentee Ballot shall be mailed to the following address or you may visit the Absentee Election Office.

**Cassandra Johnson, Absentee Election Manager/Circuit Clerk
Absentee Elections
801 Forrest Avenue - Suite 202
Gadsden, AL 35901**

Respectfully,

Cassandra 'Sam' Johnson – Circuit Clerk
Absentee Elections Manager

Note: *For additional voter information on registering to vote online or updating your voter information, you may visit the Secretary of State, Elections Division website at www.alabamavotes.gov. You may also visit the Etowah County Circuit Clerk website at <http://etowah.alacourt.gov>. Applications for Absentee ballots are available at either website.*

***Absentee Election Office hours of operation
Monday thru Friday (except holidays) 8:00 am – 5:00 pm***